

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

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DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH

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April 30, 2013

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**APPROVE EXPENDITURES FOR
THE CLIENT CONGRESS FORUM
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS)
(3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Request approval to expend funds to host a Client Congress Forum on June 28, 2013, for the purpose of addressing empowerment and advocacy issues related to mental illness.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Authorize the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to expend funds to host the Client Congress Forum (Forum) to be held on June 28, 2013, at an estimated cost of \$43,627, fully funded by State Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) revenue.
2. Authorize the Director of Mental Health, or his designee, to execute an agreement with the Levy Premium Food Service Limited Partnership for space and catering, at an estimated cost of \$17,900.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Board approval of the recommended actions will enable DMH to host the Forum, to be held on June 28, 2013, at the Center at Cathedral Plaza.

The Client Congress of the County of Los Angeles DMH, which will host the Forum, is an association composed of groups and individuals dedicated to promoting social inclusion. Through collective advocacy efforts, people receiving public mental health services, and those who support them, can make a positive contribution to their communities and impact the negative stereotypes that surround

people with mental illness.

In an age of health care reform, it becomes vital that people with a psychiatric diagnosis become informed about the issues that affect them and develop a unified voice so that their values can be communicated effectively. The Forum is the vehicle for linking members and groups, integrating advocacy efforts, organizing countywide public service activities, and developing an annual community event dedicated to exploring issues important to mental health clients and their families.

The Forum will bring together people from all parts of the County, including from the Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander communities; as well as from the deaf; Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender; and other communities that have been traditionally underserved.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended Board actions support the County's Strategic Plan Goal 1, Operational Effectiveness, and Strategic Plan Goal 3, Integrated Services Delivery.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

The estimated cost of the Forum is approximately \$43,627, fully funded by MHSA revenue and is included in DMH's Fiscal Year (FY) 2012-13 Final Adopted Budget. The final cost will be determined by the actual number of participants, which is expected to range up to 600.

The \$43,627 budget for the Forum includes facility rental, set-up, audio-visual equipment services, parking services, and food services for 600 consumers for a total amount of \$17,900. The estimated cost also includes \$4,000 for charter buses to provide transportation for consumers, \$250 for entertainment (band), \$20,977 for translation services/interpreter services for 13 threshold languages, and \$500 for other miscellaneous items which will be paid through the purchase order process.

There is no net County cost impact associated with this action.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

The Forum has been approved by DMH's Executive Management Team as appropriate under the MHSA plan. MHSA provides funding for outreach to mental health clients, their families, and parents of children receiving mental health services, including to consumers and families of underserved communities and their community partners.

CONTRACTING PROCESS

A committee, composed of consumers, contract providers, and DMH administrative staff, determined that the Center at Cathedral Plaza was the preferred location based on availability, size of accommodations, and ease of both auto and public transportation for presenters, volunteers, employees, and participants. DMH solicited quotes from various venues that met selection requirements for the conference.

Board approval of the recommended actions will enable DMH to execute an agreement with the Center at Cathedral Plaza to guarantee space, catering services, and other necessities for the conference and provide DMH with authority to expend funds in support of the conference.

Confirmation, in the form of a deposit, will be made to ensure the reservation of space.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The Forum will benefit the mental health system by empowering consumers, educating participants on current advocacy issues, promoting social inclusion, and increasing an understanding of the need for integrating health, mental health, and substance abuse services in an era of healthcare reform. It is anticipated that between two percent and four percent of current consumers of public mental health services will become involved in legislative advocacy within each year that the Forum is held.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mg Southard", written in a cursive style.

MARVIN J. SOUTHARD, D.S.W.
Director of Mental Health

MJS:DM:ADA:RK:e
m

c: Chief Executive Officer
County Counsel
Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors
Chairperson, Mental Health Commission